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and lines of similar metrical character. It closed with a discussion of hiatus, also statistical, in which the author attempted to show that the percentages in the poems of Chaucer are such as to show at least a partial avoidance of this feature.

As the paper is to be published, further analysis is omitted here.

33. "Fiction as a College study." By Professor Bliss Perry, of Princeton University.

SIXTH SESSION.

The sixth regular session of the meeting was convened at 3 p. m., December 28th.

34. "Overlapping and multiple indications." By Professor Andrew Ingraham, of the Swain Free School.

Two sound-series overlap each other when the meaning of the one is suggested by or implied in the meaning of the other. When the expressions overlap, the idea has multiple indications. The philosopher and the scientist avoid overlapping and multiple indications; the orator and the poet seek them. The ground of these manifestations is found in the intimate connection of our thoughts. The connection may be universal and permanent, or local and transitory. In Elementary Geometry, for instance, the subject and the predicate of any proposition about parallels overlap in their meanings, and geometers have preferred to retain ambiguous terms rather than to enlarge their vocabulary.

In the pun, the allegory, the metaphor, etc., two or more distinct realms of thought are put before the mind at once. Few utterances are without a multiplicity of significations, though serious persons attend to one only, nor find it worth the while to learn what other meanings a sentence may have outside their own province. Even $ab + c = d$ has one signification for the arithmetician, another for the logician, and a third for the vector-analyst,—a triplicate pun which moves like Spenser's *Fairy Queen* over three different regions of the mind. In overlapping we have the reverse of this, many different series of sounds tending to awaken the same thought. *Fish*, *swim* and *sea* overlap one another in "Fishes swim in the sea." A fuller representation of the meaning of the one word leads to the meaning, or rather to some implication of the meaning of the others. *Birds* is a word which, in the minds of many unintelligent persons, overlaps much that poets have said about birds hitherto. "Birds fly through the air" merely repeats what is vaguely present to him who hears any one of the three principal words in the sentence. "The ear hears the sound" and "The ball hits the fence" are run in the same grammatical mould; but the presence of intricate over-

lappings in the former and their absence from the latter show that even the language of science may emphasize trivial aspects, and that *transitive* and *direct object* have little meaning, though they may be useful in formulating rules for the guidance of beginners in the study of language. Their attention might profitably be directed to the meanings associated with the meanings of words. Their grammar, their dictionaries, their "synonyms" even, their rhetoric perhaps, and, one may add, their teachers leave them without this introduction to semasiology, this clue to the transitions in the signification of sounds and signs.

Multiple indications are to be contrasted with non-indications, misindications, and inconsistent indications,—nonsense, the oxymoron, the paradox, the bull, and many expressions of deep emotions or wide generalizations. Instances abound, as—"This garrulity of advising is born with us;" "While Ireland was silent under her misfortunes, England was deaf to her cries;" "Four-dimensional space;" "Chlorine oxidation;" "And Christ's face on the Cross sees only this after the passion of a thousand years."

Multiple indications that result from overlapping must be distinguished from those which result from exact coincidences in the meaning of different parts of a sentence, though these may have been overlappings originally. *Τὼ πᾶσι ἀμφοτέρω παρήστην* expresses six times the fact that the boys were two; not, however, as the result of any discernible overlapping. Even the tersest expressions of highly civilized people exhibit this multiplicity of indication. "The three boys are here" contains a triple indication of plurality; "He strikes me," a double indication of the object relation. Nor is mere tautology an instance of overlapping, though pleonasm and verbiage may be. They all come under multiple indications.

Faber writes, "On earth's green fields and ocean's wave-beat shore." Here *earth* and *fields* overlap; and so do *ocean*, *wave* and *shore*. "The day must dawn and darksome night be passed;" "The last faint pulse of quivering light;" "Her writhen limbs were wrung;" "For them no more the blazing hearth shall burn," may serve as examples. In the last, *hearth* and *burn* overlap; so do *hearth* and *blaze*.

Better names will be found and a better exposition given; but *overlapping* will not, I trust, be considered two unimportant a relation between significant sounds to deserve more than a name and an exposition.

This paper was discussed by Professor Herbert E. Greene.

35. "The place of Schleiermacher and Fichte in the development of German romanticism." By Professor Kuno Francke, of Harvard University.

36. "Hübsche Historie von einem Ritter wie er büsset: a manuscript of the fifteenth century." By Mr. F. G. G. Schmidt, of the Johns Hopkins University.

37. "Notes on the use of cases after certain prepositions in Anglo-Saxon (Alfred, Ælfric, and the *Chronicle*)." By Dr. H. M. Belden, of the University of Missouri. [Read by title.]

38. "W in Old Norse." By Dr. P. Groth, of Brooklyn, N. Y. [Read by title.]

Professor O. F. Emerson offered the following resolution, which was adopted by a unanimous vote of the Association.

Resolved, That the Modern Language Association of America, in convention assembled, expresses hereby its hearty thanks to the Modern Language Club of Yale University, to President and Mrs. Timothy Dwight and the Officers of Yale University, to the Graduate Club of Yale University, and to the Local Committee, for the kind, the hospitable and the efficient entertainment which has made this one of the most pleasant and successful meetings in the history of the Association.

The Association adjourned at 5 o'clock p. m.
